

# **FISCAL NOTE**

## **HB 485 - SB 642**

March 15, 2007

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires all primary and general elections be conducted by mail. All other elections would be conducted either by mail or at the polling location, but not both. Requires locations to be established for voters to deposit ballots; requires county election commissions to have suitable places for voters to mark ballots at any location where ballots are issued; requires voting booths to be established; and authorizes the State Coordinator of Elections to promulgate rules to carry out this act.

### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$1,494,600 (once every four years)**

**Increase Local Govt. Expenditures\* - \$1,494,600 (two times every two years)**

#### Assumptions:

- Based on costs provided by the State of Oregon (the only state to conduct complete by-mail elections) the average cost per registered voter in a by-mail election is approximately \$1.60.
- There were 3,434,123 registered active voters as of December 1, 2006.
- The estimated cost of an election using by-mail ballots is \$5,494,596.80 (3,434,123 x \$1.60).
- The cost of any statewide election using the current voting system is \$4,000,000 regardless of which governmental entity bears the cost. The cost to local governments would occur in August and November in even years. The cost to state government would occur every four years for the presidential primary election (this cost is actually paid by the local governments and reimbursed by the state).
- The additional cost per election using by-mail ballots is estimated to be \$1,494,596.80 (\$5,494,596.80 - \$4,000,000).

\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director